

**Testimony on HB 5465**  
**AAC The Development of Green Jobs**

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Co-chairperson Fonafara, Co-chairperson Nardello, Committee Members and Staff, my name is Joel N. Gordes. I am President of Environmental Energy Solutions of West Hartford, CT and have been in the renewable energy field for 35 years involved in energy efficiency, solar hot water and solar electric systems, biomass, renewable energy education as well as policy matters including specialization in energy and environmental security issues. While I cannot join you in person, I offer these remarks strictly as an individual. They do not reflect the opinions of any organizations I work for currently or in the past. Some current and past experience includes:

Member of Speaker of the House Donovan's Green Jobs Work Group  
Speaker Donovan's appointment to the CT Energy Advisory Board  
Former Executive VP of the NY Solar Energy Industries Association  
Certified auditor for the Interstate Renewable Energy Council that accredits solar educational institutions and certifies Solar Trainers and Master Trainers.  
Former Vice-Chairman of the Connecticut Legislature's Energy & Public Utilities Committee

I wish to comment on HB 5465 AAC The Development of Green Jobs.

- Sec. 1 provides a concise definition for "green jobs." As one who has strongly advocated environmental responsibility for decades, I find it distressing that the words "green" and "sustainable" have become little more than marketing monikers. Without definitions and standards to accompany them, there will be little hope to accomplish the intent of this bill.
- Establishes single points of authority and accountability. If any single element is missing throughout government today, it is those two elements. This bill articulates the need for it not only with responsibility for green jobs at the DPUC in Sec. 2 but, in Sec. 3, to have PRI investigate re-establishing a State Energy Office accountable for a number of energy-related tasks currently spread among at least 15 entities. I say "re-establish" an Energy Office as it seem little known that in the 1970's there was a vibrant one that had as many as 88 personnel. They served the state well. Done with some care and forethought it could actually reduce the state deficit; not increase it.
- I support Sec. 5 that enables municipalities to institute what is termed Property Accessed Clean Energy loans that a provide financing for energy efficiency and renewable energy that is financed by the towns and then paid back on the property tax. Low interest financing is the key to proliferation of efficiency and renewables.
- **I do have a concerns with Section 6 of this legislation.** It enlarges the role of the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund (REIF for statutory purposes) into the realm of transportation. This is unwise as hearings held at the DPUC on their last Comprehensive Plan evidenced the missions/programs of this fund to already highly fragmented. Adding one more mission that is, at best, tangential to their main focus is not advisable. Leave transportation efforts, and its funding to DOT.
- That being said, Sec. 6 also calls for more investment by CCEF into workforce development and I do support that. New York's comparable agency, NYSERDA, has made this a major role beginning years ago and is nationally cited for such efforts.
- I fully support Sec. 19 which would allow electric distribution companies to undertake joint ventures with community and public agencies with permission of the DPUC but insuring that such activity does not infringe on those activities that may be best accomplished by the non-monopoly private sector.
- I also support Sec. 22 that looks to mitigating any barriers to green manufacturing.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this input to the Committee. Thank you for your attention and consideration in this matter.